

Thus, the 28 claims pending in this application have been separated into four separate groups. Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-12 for examination purposes only.

Applicants respectfully traverse this restriction requirement in view of the following remarks.

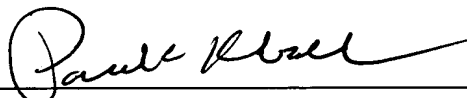
In particular, Applicants submit that examination of all of the claims in Groups I, III and IV would not pose an undue burden on the Examiner. Section 803 of The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." Groups I, III, IV are classified in the same class. Therefore, Applicants submit that it would not pose an undue burden on the Examiner to examine all of the claims pending in Groups I, III and IV of this application.

In view of the above, the restriction is believed to be improper and Applicants respectfully request that the restriction be reconsidered and withdrawn such that the claims of Groups I, III and IV (i.e., Claims 1-12 and 22-28) are examined in one application.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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